

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-18 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10 and 16-18 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement filed April 2, 2007

The Examiner is respectfully requested to return the initialed PTO-1449 form provided in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 2, 2007.

Claim Rejection Under Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,954,985. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer concurrently herewith. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection based on '985 patent should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

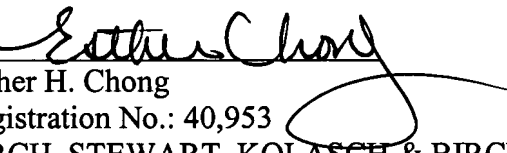
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer